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FOREST CONTROL

by

CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees."
...Karle Wilson

Milwaukee, Wis. August, 1962 No. 101

AN OLD CHESTNUT FROM NORTHERN WISCONSIN

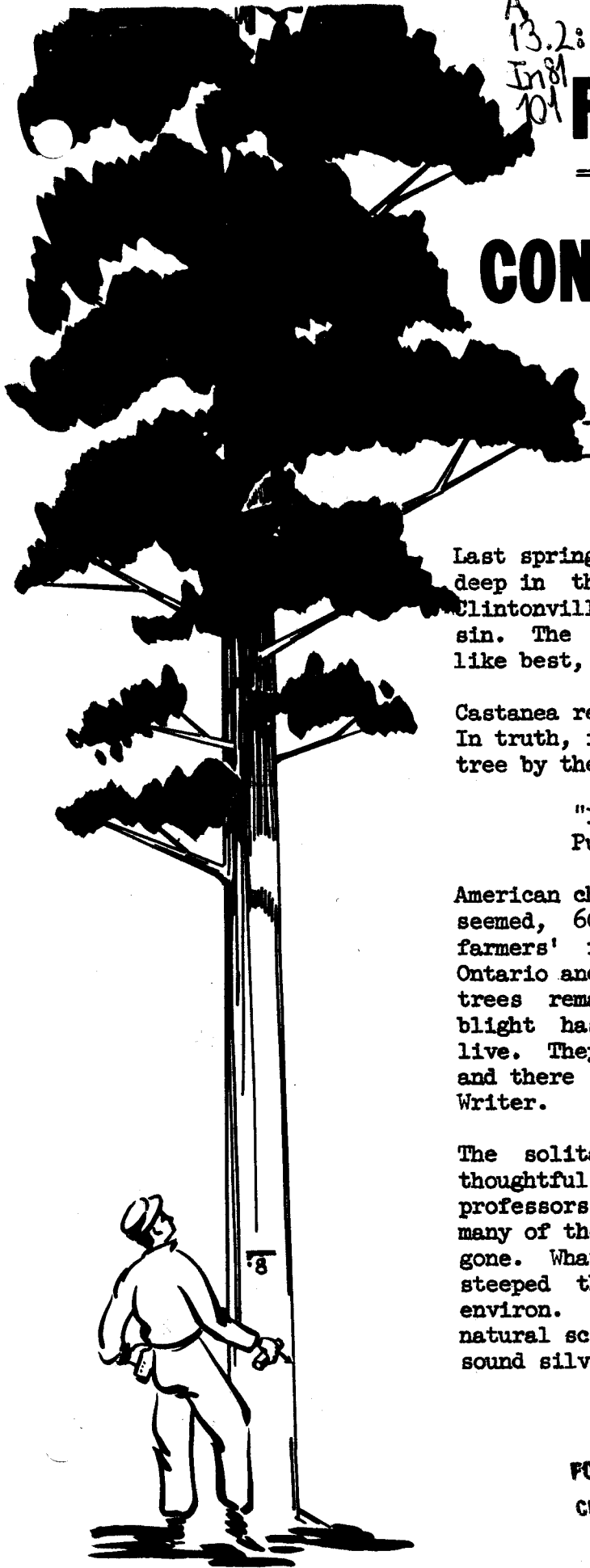
Last spring I visited an old friend whose roots are deep in the rich soil of a fine little town called Clintonville, 100 miles north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The name of my friend, the classical name I like best, is Castanea.

Castanea reminded me of old lessons long learned. In truth, it might be said that in this old chestnut tree by the roadside:

"I saw the starry tree Eternity
Put forth the blossom Time."

American chestnuts grew everywhere in the east, it seemed, 60 years ago. They were at home in the farmers' fields and in the forests from Maine to Ontario and southward, but today only a few healthy trees remain in the middle west. The ladder of blight has not yet reached them and so they still live. They are lasting reminders jotted down here and there on the Wisconsin landscape by the Master Writer.

The solitary chestnut tree brought to mind the thoughtful understanding of so many forest school professors 40 years ago. Perhaps this is because many of them, like the other old chestnuts, are now gone. Whatever the reason, the professors of old steeped their students in trees and the forest environ. They stuffed their scholars with the natural sciences. On these I still strongly believe sound silviculture will always be enthroned.



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Plant relationships and identification, botany, dendrology and ecology were not scoffed at years ago as they seem to be today. These are the courses providing the background knowledge for the proper cultural treatment of the forest. Localized ecological knowledge can never be replaced by directives on silvicultural practice. There are far too many subtypes and habitat variations in the North Central Region.

Teaching dendrology was in itself something of an art, the way the professors handled it in the twenties. They took us to the woods in the four seasons to learn the four faces of the trees. They gave us the pleasures and benefits of imaginative teaching.

"Break off a few of these buds and mix them with a few grains of wheat from the granary," the forest school professor told us. "When you have learned to separate them again without errors, into buff-colored chestnut buds and buff-colored grains of wheat, you will always remember how to identify the American chestnut tree. Nine months out of 12 it has buds shaped and colored like wheat grains. Sometimes you must cut the buds and the grains in half or chew them to make sure which is which."

The professors of old never saw a chestnut tree quite like my Clintonville friend whose identifying characteristics are decidedly mixed. The wheat-like buds over most of the tree were just beginning to burst in early May, but on one vertical limb the buds had long since come into full leaf. There were white cymes of blossom at the top of the limb. These leaves and flowers were the leaves and flowers of the Mountain Ash.

A Mountain Ash, the red rowanberry of the Scots, grows from a large, low crotch of the chestnut tree. It is a tree upon a tree. The union of these two members of such widely different plant families is perfect and the upright blooming branch is healthy.

The two trees in one--the tree within a tree--is a curiosity. This fall it will have red berries and brown burs, all within the same crown now graced with white blooms of Mountain Ash and greenish-yellow flowers of *Castanea dentata*, (Marsh) Borkh. Stop and see the chestnut tree when you visit Clintonville. It is a curious remnant of millions of trees which would still be with us but for one of mankind's many misunderstandings of the wonderful workings and ways of Nature.

CAL STOTT
Forester
U. S. Forest Service, R-9

Aug. 1, 1962

A CFI FIELD WORK PROBLEM THIS YEAR IN REGION 9

It has become necessary for Dick Smith and Cal Stott to cancel most of their field assignments in 1962 due to illness of the folks at home. This is unfortunate for all. We do not like to disappoint industrial foresters with whom we have worked so long. The field projects were all especially interesting this season and no one regrets postponement of field activities more than the two men themselves. The industrial projects will, of course, go right on under the able direction of company foresters.

I take this occasion to assure the States and Forest Industries that there will be no permanent reduction of CFI field activities. Next year the demonstration, training, and supervision of current woods work will be continued as heretofore. Experience of the past 28 years of this type of cooperative work and service has demonstrated its value to the Forest Service, and we hope others, too, have benefited. CFI has come to be a wonderful vehicle for mutual understanding in Region 9.

During the year a great deal of back work will be handled in the Milwaukee office of the Forest Service by the Industrial Cooperation Section. Smith and Stott will be available here for counseling on CFI data processing, field planning, and the completion of machine work. They will assist as heretofore on feasibility studies with owners of large forest properties. There will be no cessation of activities in inventory control planning, but only a temporary interruption of field work.

PAUL J. ST. AMANT
Assistant Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service, R-9

TUBE PAINT HAS WINTERED WELL
SMALLER NUMBERS ADVOCATED

Tree numbering with Nel-Script tube paint has been in use more than a year. The method was most convenient with the first trial, and we have been happy with large-scale subsequent applications. This summer a systematic check has been made of white tube paint numbers applied last fall. The wintered numbers are in excellent condition 10 months later. Although still soft to thumbnail pressure, the marks weathered and adhered well. They were not disturbed by squirrels, even on den trees. It will be a long time before these numbers dissipate for they have a heavy, wrinkled, pastelike consistency. We predict at least a 15 to 20-year life for Nel-Script numbers. All colors seem equally satisfactory.

Last fall, on our first large-scale use of Nel-Script, we made the numbers too large. This wasted paint and time. The numbers we now make are not over 1" in height. Pressed a little flatter against the bark, the paint lines are broader and the numbers are even more legible and professional looking.

Smaller numbers are not only more economical when first made, but are equally durable. We are now getting well over 100 tree numbers and DBH lines per paint tube on rough or smooth barked hardwoods.

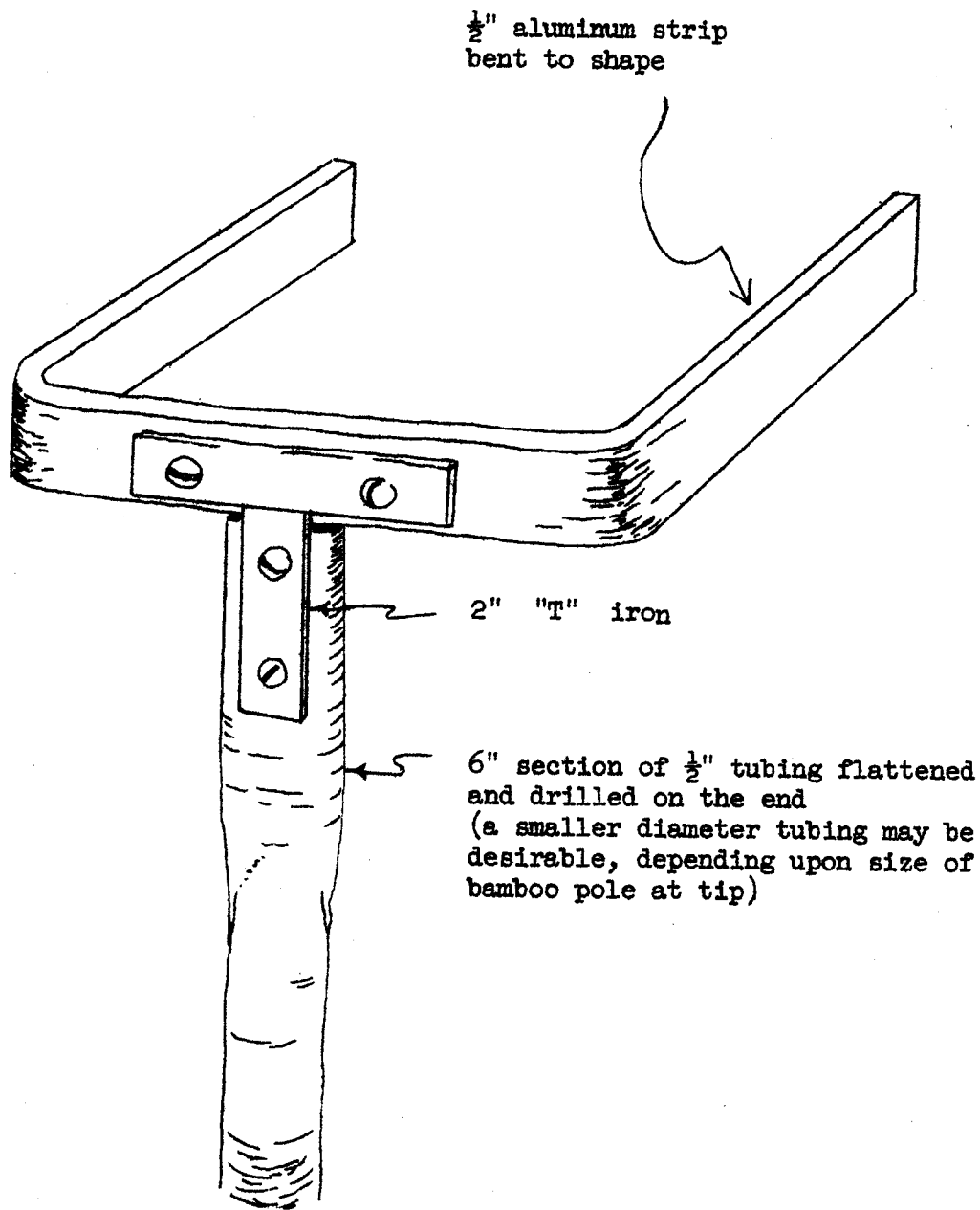
A NOTE ON THE ACCUMULATION OF OIL IN THE PAINT TUBES

We have experienced no difficulty with oil in the Nel-Script paint tubes. Oil does accumulate during over-winter storage, but only in small quantities. Be sure to store paint tubes nozzle up so that the 10 to 20 drops of excess oil may be squeezed out before the paint is used for numbering. We have used the tubes after perpendicular over-winter storage and detected no difference between the applicability of the paint last fall and this spring.

During the winter we also stored two tubes on their sides. In these tubes the oil collected on the top side along the full length of the tube. It was difficult to completely drain off the oil and the paint was too thin for the first 5 to 10 tree numbers. This is not a serious problem and with proper storage oil separation is no problem at all.

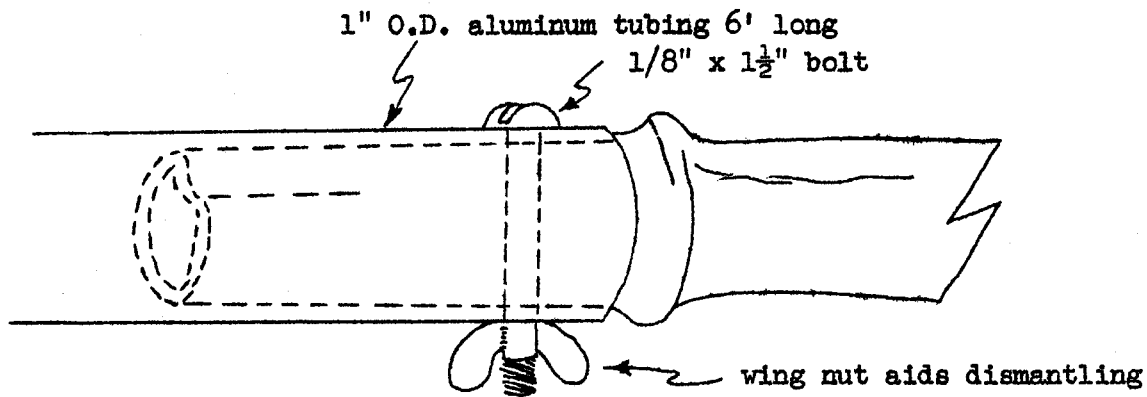
CAL STOTT
RICHARD N. SMITH
Foresters, R-9
U. S. Forest Service

DETACHABLE "U" BAR CALIPER

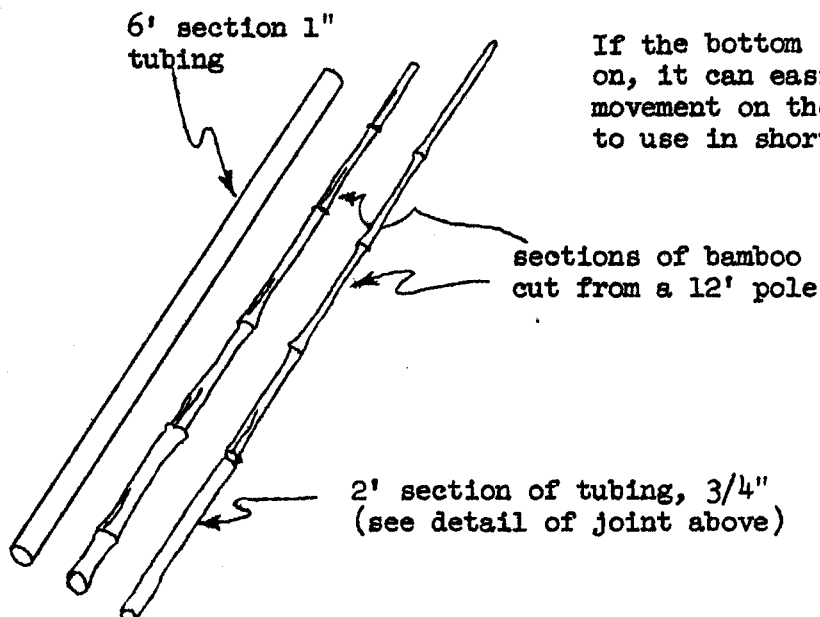


James S. Paxton, Forester
J. M. Huber Corp.
Elkins, W. Va.

SECTIONAL MEASURING POLE



1. Cut the bamboo about midway between nodes, this gives better support and a more rigid pole. If the pole becomes loose, black plastic electricians tape will snug it up and still slide easily.
2. Try to locate cuts in bamboo so that a close fit can be had without shaving the bamboo.
3. If a close fit is obtained, it is not necessary to bolt any joints except the two foot section of aluminum is permanently attached to the top section of bamboo.
4. A two foot section of 3/4" O.D. tubing works best at the second joint.



If the bottom section is not bolted on, it can easily be removed to make movement on the plot much easier, or to use in shorter stands.